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EXCISE

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ACTION EUR 22

INFO OCT 01, AF 12, IO 13, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03,
NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 03, RSC 01, PRS 01, SS 20, USIA 12, UCF 05, NIC 01,
NEA 13, E 15, INT 06, COM 08, TRSY 11, AID 28, RSR 01, /199 W
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P R 041744Z SEP 69
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6504
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USCINCEUR

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY nlt DATE 12 JUL 1982
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 3632

SUBJECT: SPANISH REACTION TO LIBYAN COUP

1. NO OFFICIAL STATEMENT HAS BEEN ISSUED ON COUP BUT GOS CONCERN REFLECTED IN PRESS COVERAGE AND IN CONVERSATION

[redacted] B1 E B

EMBASSY COMMENT: HOPE DEPT WILL PROVIDE US WITH CONTINUING ASSESSMENTS LIBYAN DEVELOPMENTS WHICH WE CAN USE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH SPANISH. SUCH EXCHANGES COULD BE MUTUALLY PROFITABLE IN ADDITION TO PROMOTING WITH SPANISH SENSE OF PARTNERSHIP ON SECURITY PROBLEMS.

3. IN SPANISH PRESS, COUP PRESENTED AS VICTORY FOR NASSER

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AND AS ANOTHER SUCCESS FOR SOVIETS IN THEIR EFFORTS EXTEND INFLUENCE ALONG SOUTHERN RIM OF MEDITERRANEAN. TONE OF REPORTS AND COMMENTARIES ALSO REVEAL SPANISH CONCERN OVER EVENT THAT MAY INCREASE TENSIONS IN MEDITERRANEAN AND STRENGTHEN POSITION OF LEFT-LEANING NATIONS LIKE ALGERIA.

4. THUS FAR ONLY NUEVO DIARIO (OPUS DEI) BY IMPLICATION LINKS EVENTS IN LIBYA WITH US BASES IN SPAIN. UNDER HEADLINE "COUP IN LIBYA INCREASES STRATEGIC VALUE OF SPAIN," AND CORRESPONDENT IN BONN (COLCHERO) SAYS GERMANS ARE ASKING THEMSELVES WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO US BASE IN LIBYA, ADDING [illegible] MENTIONING US BASES IN SPAIN, THAT "WITHOUT DOUBT LIBYAN EVENTS INCREASE STRATEGIC VALUE OF SPAIN." COLCHERO ALSO COMMENTS ONLY PORTS NOW IN WESTERN HANDS IN NORTH AFRICA ARE SPANISH [illegible] OF CEUTA AND MELILLA. ABC (MONARCHIST) SAYS IT IMPROBABLE THAT GUARANTEES EXTENDED TO FOREIGN PROPERTY BY NEW GOVERNMENT WILL INCLUDE BRITISH AND US BASES THERE.

5. DISPATCHES EMPHASIZE SPANISH FRIEN[illegible]ITH ARA[illegible] COUNTRIES AND GOOD POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RELA[illegible]AIN HAS WITH LIBYA. PUEBLO (SYNDICALIST) AND NUEVO DIA[illegible] CITE SPAINS'S INTEREST IN LIBYAN OIL (GOS, THROUGH GOVERNMENT OWNED CORPORATION, IS PARTNER WITH ESSO IN OIL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN LIBYA). NOTE THAT FIRST SHIPMENT OIL REACHED SPAIN ONLY FEW DAYS AGO AND OPINE THAT CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH MUTUALLY PROFITABLE ARRANGEMENT.

6. FOREIGN MINISTER CASTIELLA MET YESTERDAY AT SAN SEBASTIAN WITH LIBYAN AMBASSADOR, BUT NATURE THEIR CONVERSATION NOT REVEALED.
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